



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Danville Vinyl Chloride Ground Water Contamination Site

Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

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Background:

- In 2009, vinyl chloride ground water contamination was discovered on a property in Danville, Indiana, during the removal of two underground storage tanks.
- Vinyl chloride is a chemical compound with a mild, sweet odor, which can be in a liquid or gas state. Vinyl chloride is a manufactured substance that does not occur naturally.
- The contamination was discovered near the Town of Danville drinking water wells, which utilize ground water to serve approximately 8,000 residents and businesses.
- The Town of Danville drinking water has been tested and shows no contamination with vinyl chloride.
- Working under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has decided to investigate the ground water contamination discovered in Danville. This investigation will help IDEM to determine future actions needed to mitigate possible impacts from the contamination.

Description:

- In the summer of 2014, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will be conducting a soil and ground water investigation in Danville, Indiana.
- The objective of this investigation is to identify the source of the ground water contamination and determine if ground water contamination has migrated towards the Town of Danville municipal well field.
- IDEM staff will be using a direct push sampling device to collect discreet subsurface soil and ground water samples. Ground water samples will also be taken from the Danville drinking water wells.
- IDEM staff may request access to private property in various locations to collect ground water and soil samples from businesses or residences to aid in this investigation. There is no charge associated with these samples, and property owners will be provided with the sample results from the samples collected from their property.

Environmental Impacts:

- Vinyl chloride is a manufactured chemical that is used to make polyvinylchloride (PVC). PVC is used to make a variety of plastic products, including pipes, wire and cable coatings, and packaging materials.
- Vinyl chloride is a breakdown product of trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethene, and other volatile organic compounds, which are used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that vinyl chloride is a known carcinogen. Studies in workers who have breathed vinyl chloride over many years show an increased risk of liver, brain, lung cancer, and some cancers of the blood have also been observed in workers. The effects of drinking high levels of vinyl chloride are unknown.
- People can be exposed to vinyl chloride from ingesting contaminated water used for drinking, cooking, and bathing (showering); and from breathing vinyl chloride that has been released from plastics industries, hazardous waste sites, and landfills. A contaminated water supply can also impact indoor air quality in the home as vinyl chloride gasses can be released from water during bathing, cooking, and laundry activities.
- Along with this fact sheet, IDEM is distributing the *ToxFAQs™ for Vinyl Chloride* fact sheet from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that describes vinyl chloride and its effects in more detail. A copy of *ToxFAQs™ for Vinyl Chloride* may be obtained by contacting IDEM Project Manager

Allie Praeuner at the e-mail address provided under Additional Information section, below, or on ATSDR's website at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=281&tid=51>.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program works to assess potential environmental hazards and prioritize contaminated sites for further needed actions. Once the sample results have been evaluated, IDEM Site Investigation staff and management will make a decision regarding future actions.
- IDEM staff will be available to answer questions and address concerns of residents and businesses.

Citizen's Role:

- Danville residents and businesses can assist the State of Indiana, where requested, by allowing IDEM to take ground water samples from their residence or place of business. These samples require the use of a direct push sampling device. The direct push sampler is a tracked vehicle approximately the size of a small car. IDEM will take the necessary precautions to avoid damaging property or landscaping.
- Access to private property will allow IDEM to sample the ground water and subsurface soil in various locations in Danville and to better identify the extent of contamination. Left unaddressed, the ground water contamination may become more widespread and pose a more significant threat in the future.

Additional Information:

- For questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation in the Danville area, please contact Allie Praeuner, IDEM Project Manager, at (317) 234-8674; toll free at (800) 451-6027 ext. 4-8674; or by e-mail at apraeune@idem.IN.gov.
- For health-related questions, contact:
 - The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (312) 886-1462.
 - The Hendricks County Health Department at (317) 745-9217.
- For media inquiries, contact Barry Sneed, IDEM Public Information Officer at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027 ext. 2-8596; or by e-mail at bsneed@idem.IN.gov
- For more information about IDEM's Site Investigation Program, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov/4143.htm